

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A filtration method for liquid metal comprising passing said liquid metal through a bed of refractory particulate material formed from grains of electrofused corundum, wherein the grains have having an open porosity between 5 and 30% and the porosity substantially stems from pores with a diameter greater than 10 μ m.

2. (previously presented) The filtration method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid metal has a residence time in the particulate material bed greater than 1 sec and less than 500 secs.

Claim 3 (canceled).

4. (previously presented) The filtration method according to claim 1, wherein the material has a particle size between 0.2 and 20 mm and the bed has a thickness between 4 and 40 cm.

Claim 5 (canceled).

6. (previously presented) The filtration method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid metal is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, magnesium and alloys thereof.

7. (previously presented) The filtration method according to claim 5, wherein the corundum is obtained by method steps comprising electrofusion of alumina, a casting, a cooling and solidification in order to obtain said porosity, a crushing, then a screening process.

Claim 8 (canceled).

9. (currently amended) A filtration device for liquid metal comprising a bed ~~of refractory particulate electrofused corundum~~ formed from grains of refractory particulate electrofused corundum, wherein the grains have having an open porosity between 5 and 30% and the porosity substantially

stems from pores with a diameter greater than 10 μ m.

Claim 10 (canceled).

11. (previously presented) The filtration method according to claim 3, wherein the porosity substantially stems from pores with a diameter between 10 and 200 μ m.